

Primary Source Lesson Plan Template

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Lesson Overview:

This is an introductory lesson to a Genius Hour or Passion Project. It is a way for students to brainstorm and select an area of interest, and then a topic.

Lesson Title: Passion Brackets: Pick Your Passion

Objectives: Students will select an engaging, thought-provoking, challenging topic for their Genius Hour or Passion Project.

Time Required: 30-45 minutes

Recommended Grade Level(s): Fifth and older

Topic: Genius Hour- Passion Project Selection guided by a variety of primary source photos

Lesson Preparation:

Make/Copy brackets

Select/Print/Copy 25-30 primary source photos from a variety of settings, events, areas of interest, etc.

Primary Sources: 25-30 different photos (numbered from one to whatever) from loc.gov showing different people, places and things. The photos should spark student interest and be a gateway to topics of learning. For example, a picture from the Great Depression could lead to topics about finance, farming, the stock market, poverty, social issues, etc.

Other Materials: basketball tournament-style bracket with eight starting spots and pens/pencils

Lesson Procedure:

1. Lay the 25-30 photos (several copies of each stacked up) on a table so students have enough room to walk around and look at the pictures.
2. Students will select eight photos to start their Passion Bracket.
3. These eight photos should spark student interests, and lend themselves to connect to researchable topics.
4. Once the photos are selected, students will create matchups between the photos by placing the photo's number on a bracket line. The student will then decide which photo between those two is most interesting, sparks the most ideas, "speaks to the student", etc. That numbered photo moves on to the next round.
5. The student will eventually end up with one photo as the "winner".
6. This photo is used in the next lesson to generate topics for the Genius Hour or Passion Project.